

Trailblazers of History: A Creative Biography Task

Learning objective: To research and synthesise information about significant figures in Black history, using biographical features to construct an original profile.

Ellie the elephant has been busy in the library researching historical figures who have made a lasting impact on the world. Using the Word Bank for inspiration, choose one figure from Black history. Your task is to act as a biographer. Fill in the profile sheet below by researching their key achievements and explaining why their contribution is still significant today. Aim to use sophisticated vocabulary to describe their character and legacy.

Word bank: Resilience · Pioneering · Advocacy · Trailblazer · Determination · Legacy · Inspiration · Contribution · Human rights · Innovation

1. Identify the historical figure you have chosen and explain the specific field (e.g., science, civil rights, sport, or literature) in which they made their mark. (2 marks)

2. Describe one significant challenge this person faced during their lifetime. How did their resilience help them overcome this barrier? (3 marks)

3. Explain why this person's actions are considered 'pioneering'. What did they do that had never been done before? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast this person's life with your own. What similarities and differences can you identify in the opportunities available to you both? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why is it important that we continue to study and celebrate the contributions of Black historical figures in modern society? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if this individual had not stood up for their beliefs? Describe how the world might look different today. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of your chosen historical figure in the centre of a frame. Around the frame, draw five symbols that represent their greatest achievements or the values they stood for (e.g., a book for an author, or a bridge for a community builder).



Extension challenge: Write a short, emotive poem in the style of Leo the lion, celebrating the bravery of your chosen figure. Use at least three words from the word bank and ensure your poem has a clear rhythm or rhyme scheme.